WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1    1.    A method comprising:

2        receiving a resource request from a first requestor, the

3    resource request including credentials and identifying an

4    operation to be performed with respect to a resource;

5        mapping the resource request to a resource

6    identifier;

7        searching a resource data structure for a resource node

8        based on the resource identifier; and

9        determining whether the first requestor is authorized to

10   perform the operation with respect to the resource based on

11   whether the credentials in the resource request match a

12   resource authorization parameter associated with the resource

13   node.

1    2.    The method of claim 1 wherein searching includes

2    searching resource nodes each of which represents a resource

3    and includes a resource identifier.

1    3.    The method of claim 1 wherein searching includes

2    searching a directed graph structure.

1    4.    The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a resource

2    request includes receiving a digital certificate conforming to

3    a simplified public key infrastructure.

1   5.   The method of claim 1 wherein mapping includes mapping

2   the resource request to the resource identifier and a resource

3   authorization parameter including an owner level authorizing

4   complete access to the resource.

1   6.   The method of claim 1 wherein mapping includes mapping

2   the resource request to the resource identifier and a resource

3   authorization parameter including an editor level authorizing

4   read/write access to the resource.

1   7.   The method of claim 1 wherein mapping includes mapping

2   the resource request to the resource identifier and a resource

3   authorization parameter including a reviewer level authorizing

4   read only access to the resource.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 wherein mapping includes mapping

2   the resource request to the resource identifier and a resource

3   authorization parameter including a none level denying all

4   access to the resource.

1   9.   The method of claim 1 including delegating the

2   credentials of a child node to a parent node in the resource

3   data structure.

1   10.   The method of claim 9 in which the resource request is

2   handled based on the delegated credentials.

1    11.   The method of claim 1 wherein the resource request

2    originates from a client computer directed to a server

3    computer over a network.

1    12.   An apparatus comprising:

2        a memory for storing a resource data structure having

3    resource nodes each of which represents a respective resource

4    and which has a respective resource identifier and a resource

5    authorization parameter; and

6        a processor configured to:

7            receive a resource request from a first requestor,

8    the resource request including credentials and

9    identifying an operation to be performed with respect to

10   a resource;

11           map the resource request to a resource identifier;

12           search the resource data structure for a resource

13   node based on the resource identifier; and

14           determine whether the first requestor is authorized

15   to perform the operation with respect to the resource

16   based on whether the credentials in the resource request

17   match a resource authorization parameter associated with

18   the resource node.

1    13.   The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the resource data

2    structure comprises a directed graph structure.

1   14.   The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the credentials include

2   a digital certificate conforming to a simplified public key

3   infrastructure.

1   15.   The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the resource

2   authorization level includes an owner level authorizing

3   complete access to the resource.

1   16.   The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the resource

2   authorization level includes an editor level authorizing

3   read/write access to the resource.

1   17.   The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the resource

2   authorization level includes a reviewer level authorizing read

3   only access to the resource.

1   18.   The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the resource

2   authorization level includes a none level denying all access

3   to the resource.

1   19.   The apparatus of claim 12 wherein resource data structure

2   includes the delegation of a resource authorization level from

3   a child node to a parent node.

1   20.   A system comprising:

2         a first computer associated with a first requestor

3   configured to generate resource requests with credentials;

4      a second computer including memory storing a resource

5   data structure with resource nodes each of which represents a

6   respective resource and which has a respective resource

7   identifier and a resource authorization level, and the second

8   computer configured to:

9          receive a resource request from a first requestor,

10      the resource request including credentials and

11      identifying an operation to be performed with respect to

12      a resource;

13          map the resource request to a resource identifier;

14          search the resource data structure for a resource

15      node based on the resource identifier; and

16          determine whether the first requestor is authorized

17      to perform the operation with respect to the resource

18      based on whether the credentials in the resource request

19      match a resource authorization level associated with the

20      resource node; and

21      a network over which the first and second computers

22      communicate.

1   21.   The system of claim 20 wherein the resource data

2   structure comprises a directed graph data structure.

1    22.   The system of claim 20 wherein the credentials include a

2    digital certificate conforming to a simplified public key

3    infrastructure.

1    23.   The system of claim 20 wherein the resource authorization

2    level includes a level from the group consisting of owner

3    level, editor level, reviewer level, none level.

1    24.   The system of claim 20 including the delegation of the

2    credentials from a child node to a parent node.

1    25.   The system of claim 20 including the delegation of

2    credentials associated with the first requestor to a second

3    requestor wherein the second requestor can request resources

4    using the credentials from the first requestor as if it were

5    the first requestor.

1    26.   An article comprising a computer readable medium that

2    stores computer executable instructions for causing a computer

3    system to:

4        map a resource request to a resource identifier, in

5    response to receiving the resource request from a first

6    requestor, the resource request including credentials and

7    identifying an operation to be performed with respect to a

8    resource;

9        search a resource data structure for a resource node

10    based on the resource identifier; and

11        determine whether the first requestor is authorized to

12    perform the operation with respect to the resource based on

13    whether the credentials in the resource request match a

14    resource authorization level associated with the resource

15    node.

1    27.    The article of claim 26 including instructions for

2    causing the computer system to have a directed graph data

3    structure with resource nodes representing resources including

4    a resource identifier and a resource authorization level.

1    28.    The article of claim 26 including instructions for

2    causing the computer system to have digital certificates

3    conforming to a simplified public key infrastructure.

1    29.    The article of claim 26 including instructions for

2    causing the computer system to delegate the credentials of a

3    child node to a parent node.

1    30.    The article of claim 26 including instructions for

2    causing the computer system to delegate the credentials

3    associated with the first requestor to a second requestor to

4    allow the second requestor to request resources using the

5    credentials from the first requestor as if it were the first

6    requestor.